

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) A networking device comprising:

a first packet processor comprising:

an input interface having a port to accept incoming packets;

an input memory coupled to said input interface for temporarily storing said packets in a queue arranged by a receiving order;

a second packet processor comprising:

an output interface having a port to send said packets out of said networking device;

an output memory coupled to said output interface for temporarily storing said packets;

a switching fabric coupled to said first packet processor and said second packet processor for conveying information between said first packet processor and said second packet processor; and

said first packet processor also for sending a memory request corresponding to a first packet which is not at a head of said queue to said second packet processor, said first packet processor also for receiving a memory reply from said second packet processor corresponding to said memory request for said first packet prior to forwarding a second packet that is ahead of said first packet in said queue.

16. (cancelled)

17. (previously presented) The networking device as described in Claim 15 wherein said first packet processor is also for sending a third packet to said second packet processor, wherein said third packet is at the head of said queue.

18. (previously presented) The networking device as described in Claim 17 wherein said second packet processor is also for receiving said first packet, said second packet and said third packet.

19. (Previously Presented) The networking device as described in Claim 15 wherein said second packet processor is also for sending said first packet out of said networking device.

20. (original) The networking device as described in Claim 15 further comprising a plurality of packet processors in addition to said first and said second packet processors coupled to said switching fabric.

21. (Previously Presented) The networking device as described in Claim 15 wherein said memory request comprises a first portion to indicate that said first packet is not at a head of said queue.

22. (Previously Presented) The networking device as described in Claim 15 wherein said first packet is an internet protocol packet.

23-37. (cancelled)